

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 6 without prejudice and please amend claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for forming stacks of products ~~(17)~~, having an essentially horizontal continuously movable row of compartments ~~elements (1)~~, a feed device ~~(5)~~ which conveys individual products ~~(17)~~ one behind the other to a discharge location above the row of compartments ~~(1)~~ and allows the products ~~(17)~~ to drop into the compartments ~~(1)~~, or casts them into the same, and having a guide device which guides in each case one product ~~(17)~~ between the discharge location of the feed device and the compartment ~~(1)~~ assigned to the product ~~(17)~~ and wherein the guide device operates in circulation.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide device has at least two directing elements ~~(12)~~ which are moved along synchronously with the row of compartments ~~(1)~~ and are preferably designed as guide blades.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the directing elements ~~(12)~~ are arranged such that they form an extension of that compartment ~~(1)~~ of the row of compartments ~~(1)~~ which is assigned to the discharge location.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide device is arranged such that ~~it~~ the guide device is only active in the region of the transfer location between the feed device ~~(5)~~ and the row of compartments.

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6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide device has a plurality of circulating directing elements ~~(12)~~ of which the route in the region of the transfer location coincides with the path of the row of compartments.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the directing elements ~~(12)~~ are guided such that the directing element ~~(12)~~ arranged between two products is moved out transversely to the movement direction of the row of compartments.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the directing elements ~~(12)~~ are fitted on a chain ~~(14)~~.